

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /082 W
----- 063239

R 141025Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1204

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, UN

SUBJECT: GDR CRITICISMS OF US VIETNAM VETO IN UN

1. SHARP CRITICISM OF THE US VETO OF UN MEMBERSHIP FOR SOUTH AND NORTH VIETNAM HAS APPEARED AUGUST 12 AND 13 IN THE GDR PRESS. A SHORT PAGE ONE REPORT IN AUGUST 12 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND LABELED THE US ACTION A "MISUSE" OF ITS SECURITY COUNCIL VETO RIGHT, WHILE A SECOND ARTICLE IN THE SAME EDITION QUOTED HEAD OF GDR UN DELEGATION BERNARD NEUGEBAUER AS SAYING US ATTEMPTS TO LINK NORTH-SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND SOUTH KOREAN UN MEMBERSHIP WERE "ABSURD."

2. IN A SIGNED EDITORIAL TITLED "VETO AGAINST DETENTE" IN AUGUST 13 ND, AUTHOR ACCUSED US OF TAKING A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"MALICIOUS" STEP AGAINST DETENTE AND ARGUED THAT

WASHINGTON'S POSITION WOULD FIND NO UNDERSTANDING AMONG OTHER NATIONS. CHARACTERIZING THE VETO AS A US ATTEMPT TO BLOCK NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE UN MEMBERSHIP AND LEGITIMIZE A REGIME INIMICAL TO DETENTE, THE AUTHOR CONCLUDED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL "STANDS ON THE SIDE OF THE BRAVE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND WILL NOT LET ITSELF BE CONVINCED THROUGH GUNS, TRICKS AND BLACKMAIL ATTEMPTS TO SUPPORT A REGIME THAT OWES ITS EXISTENCE ONLY TO AMERICAN BAYONETS AND SUBSIDIES AND IS A FACTOR FOR TENSION IN ASIA."

3. COMMENT: THESE ARTICLES REPRESENT THE STRONGEST CRITICISM OF US POLICY TO APPEAR IN THE GDR PRESS SINCE THE VIETNAM BABY LIFT LAST SPRING. OF COURSE, VIETNAM HAS LONG BEEN A STIMULUS FOR SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGNS AND ATTACKS ON US POLICY IN THE GDR. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT THE GDR WAS QUICK TO INTERPRET THE US VETO AS A BLOW AGAINST DETENTE IN GENERAL THIS SOON AFTER CSCE IS PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT GDR STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GDR WILL COMPLY WITH BASKET III ONLY TO EXTENT THAT DETENTE MOVES FORWARD.GROVE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, PRESS COMMENTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERLIN06162
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750280-1163
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750850/aaaabrqc.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR CRITICISMS OF US VIETNAM VETO IN UN
TAGS: PFOR, GC, US, VS, VN, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006